REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-13 and 15 remain in this application. Claim 14 has been previously canceled. With this Response, Applicants cancel claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1 and 9 to address informalities. No new matter is introduced.

II. Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarnanen (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,100) in view of Donovan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,519,468). Claims 3, 4, 9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarnanen in view of Donovan and Moran et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0086689). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In amended independent claim 1, Applicants disclose:

1. A method for tracking messages delivered via a short message

service (SMS) comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a gateway, a message destined for a mobile device;

assigning a unique identifier to the received message;

recording the received message and the unique identifier in a database

accessible to the gateway;

forwarding the received message from the gateway to the mobile

device,

wherein the forwarded message sent from the gateway to the mobile

device includes an origination address, the origination address being

derived from the unique identifier; and

allowing either of a sender or a recipient of the message log in to the

gateway to access and view the message recorded in the database.

Tarnanen discloses a system and method for routing a reply to a short message using an identifier assigned to the message upon receipt from a sender at a gateway application. The procedure for dealing with received messages at the gateway application is set forth in FIG. 5 of Tarnanen (see also Col. 7, lines 15-41). When a data message intended for a recipient is received (step 10), an identifier is created and assigned using the recipient's address and a time stamp (step 20). A temporary record is stored in a database of the gateway application, which includes the sender's address, the recipient's address and the identifier (step 30). The short message is then transmitted by the gateway application for delivery to the recipient. The procedure for routing replies to the received message at the gateway application is set forth in FIG. 6 of Tarnanen (see also Col. 7, lines 42-55). The reply sent from the recipient of the short message is received (step 50), the identifier is examined (step 60), the source address of the sender is retrieved from the temporary record in the database using the identifier (step 70), and the reply is transmitted to the sender's source address (step 80). Significantly, the only information stored in the temporary record in the database is the network address of the sender of the short message, the address of the intended recipient and the assigned identifier (Tarnanen, Col. 3, lines 1-10; Col. 6, lines 20-37). At no time is the originally sent message or the reply message stored in the database for later viewing.

With reference to independent claims 1 and 10, he Examiner acknowledges that Tarnanen fails to disclose Applicants' claimed step of allowing a sender or a recipient of the

message to view the message recorded in the database.[1] The Examiner however asserts that this step is disclosed or suggested by Donovan. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Donovan discloses a short-message system that stores a short-message intended for delivery to a destination subscriber, and determines whether or not the destination subscriber is eligible to receive the message before determining a current location of the destination subscriber and forwarding the message (see, e.g., column 1, line 66 - column 2, line 33 of Donovan). If the destination subscriber is ineligible to receive the short-message, the short-message is discarded.

With reference to Donovan's FIG. 2, the short-message system short-message service center (SMSC) 212, short-message gateway MSC (SM-GMSC) 214 and short-message interworking MSC (SM-IWMSC) 216. As further described at column 5, lines 34 - 46:

> The SMSC 212 is a store-and-forward database that stores the short messages received from an SME. The short messages that are stored in SMSC 212 may be accessed using the MSISDN. If the destination subscriber is unavailable, the short messages will accumulate in SMSC 212.

> The SM-GMSC 214 is an interface between SMSC 212 and MSC/VLRs 172, 174. This interface supports the delivery of short messages from SMSC 212 to the destination subscriber. The SM-GMSC 214 is responsible for determining the location of the destination subscriber and sending the short message to the appropriate MSC/VLR 172, 174 via network 150

The Examiner cites this description as evidence that Donovan teaches Applicants' claimed step of allowing a sender or a recipient of the message to view the message recorded in the database. Applicants respectfully submit disagree. As described, SMSC 212 is a store-and-forward database. The mobile station international ISDN number (MSISDN) of the destination subscriber, which is described as providing access to messages stored in SMSC 212, is simply used by SMSC 212 to index stored messages of a destination subscriber so that the indexed messages can be

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[1] In a final Office Action mailed on June 15, 2005, the Examiner in addition acknowledged that Tarnanen fails to disclose Applicants' claimed step of recording the received message together with the unique identifier in the database. This acknowledgement is absent in the present Office Action. While it may be argued that the gateway inherently stores the message as it is prepared for transmission, in sharp contrast to Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants submit that Tarnanen nowhere discloses or suggests that the message is stored together with identification information in the database 4 of the gateway application.

referenced upon receiving a trigger to forward the these messages to the destination subscriber. A suitable trigger, for example, includes the receipt of a short-message from the destination subscriber at the SMSC 112 (see, e.g., column 5, lines 46 - 53).

In sharp contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Donovan provides no teaching or suggestion that SMSC 212 includes any feature enabling the destination subscriber (or the sender of the short-message) to <u>access and view messages stored in the SMSC 212</u>. Rather, messages intended for the destination subscriber are <u>forwarded by the SMSC 212</u> to the destination subscriber. Moreover, unlike Applicants' claimed invention, Donovan provides no teaching or suggestion that SMSC 212 includes any feature enabling the destination subsubscriber or sendr of the short-message to <u>log in to the SMSC 112</u> in order to access and view stored messages.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Tarkanen and Donovan fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of Applicants' independent claims 1 and 10, and that claims 1 and 10 are therefore allowable. As each of dependent claims 2 - 7, 9, 11 - 13 and 15 depend from one of allowable claims 1 and 10, Applicants submit that claims 2 - 7, 9, 11 - 13 and 15 are also allowable for at least this reason.

In addition, Applicants submit that amended dependent claim 6 is allowable on alternative grounds. In dependent claim 6, Applicants disclose:

> **6.** The method of claim 1, including the further steps of:
>
> receiving, at the gateway, a reply to the message from the mobile
>
> device;
>
> correlating the reply to the sent message by means of the unique
>
> identifier; and
>
> recording the correlated reply in the database storing the sent
>
> message.

The Examiner suggests that the additional limitations of claim 6 are taught by Tarnanen. Applicants respectfully disagree. In the routing system of Tarnanen, routing data of a short message including the original source address of the message and a unique identifier are stored in the database 4 (see, e.g., column 2, line 55 - column 3, line 14 of Tarnanen). In response to the receipt of a reply message from a recipient that includes the unique identifier, the routing system uses the unique identifier to index and retrieve the original source address from the database 4, and then to forward the reply message to the sender via the original source message. In sharp contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Tarnanen fails to teach or suggest in addition that the reply message is stored in the database 4. As this feature is neither taught nor suggested by any of the other cited references, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is allowable for this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance as to all pending claims be issued in this case.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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